

Message Text

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14

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 H-01 SP-02 INR-05 OES-02 L-01 SAM-01 PRS-01

PM-03 /054 W

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R 131702Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4616

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1161

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH ADHERENCE TO THE NPT

REF: MADRID 1016

1. DURING CALL WHICH SENATOR PELL AND I NADE THIS MORNING ON FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA, THE SENATOR (AT MY SUGGESTION) RAISED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPANISH ADHERENCE TO NPT. HE TOLD AREILZA THAT SPAIN'S FAILURE TO SIGN THE NPT TREATY MIGHT WELL BECOME AN ISSUE DURING THE SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE US-SPANISH TREATY. PELL SAID THAT THE PROVISION IN THE TREATY PROVIDING EXIM BANK FINANCING FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS COULD WELL BECOME A TARGET OF ATTACK AND REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED LAST SEPTMEBER IN THE SENATE BY SENATORS STEVENSON AND PROXIMRE.

2. AREILZA INDICATED HIS AWARENESS OF THIS PROBLEM, BUT SAID THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY HAD LONG BEEN OPPOSED TO ADHERENCE TO NPT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT HAD A POTENTIAL FOR RESTRICT-ING SPANISH INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION. HE HAD NOT YET RAISED THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE SPANISH MILITARY, BUT HE MADE CLEAR, AS HE HAD TO ME EARLIER THIS WEEK, THAT HE WOULD BE EXAMINING THIS PROBLEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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3. ROVIRA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT THIS QUESTION HAD NOT COME UP DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. I POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MUST HAVE REPORTED THE STATEMENTS MADE ON THE SENATE FLOOR LAST SEPTEMBER.

4. COMMENT: I THINK THAT THE GOS IS NOW FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO SPANISH ADHERENCE TO NPT. AND SENATOR PELL'S COMMENTS SHOULD GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO SPAIN'S REVIEW OF ITS POSITION.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID01161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760058-0828
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760251/aaaabsmq.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 MADRID 1016
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH ADHERENCE TO THE NPT
TAGS: PARM, TECH, SP, (PELL, CLAIBORNE), (AREILZA Y MARTINEZ RODAS, JOSE M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006